



**UNAPPROVED
MINUTES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 26, 2014, City Council Chambers
400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801**

Call to Order: Chairperson Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Kelly Mierkowski called the roll. A quorum was present.

Commission Members Present: Fred Cobb, Chris Diana, Jerry Moreland, and Lisabeth Searing

Commission Members Excused/Absent: Janice Bengtson and Anne Heinze Silvis

Others Present: Kelly H. Mierkowski, Community Development Services.

Approval of Minutes: *Chairperson Cobb asked for approval or modifications to the July 22, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Moreland moved to approve the minutes as written and Commissioner Diana seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Petitions and Communications: None.

Staff Report: Kelly Mierkowski, Grants Management Division Manager, provided a brief overview of the staff report provided to the Commissioners that evening. The HUD activity was that the City had received Authority to Use Grant Funds from HUD, waiting on funds in IDIS from the Dept. of Treasury. Also noted on the staff report were activities that staff completed and meetings staff attended since the last meeting.

Commissioner Diana re-asked a question re the bid amounts for the demolition of Urbana Townhomes. Ms. Mierkowski apologized for not doing so and would contact Randy to obtain that information

Old Business: None

New Business:

Consolidated Social Service Funding Pool CDBG Subrecipient Agreements for FY 2014-2015

Ms. Mierkowski stated that the agreements are with the Consolidated Social Service Funding recipients, specifically the agencies who are to receive CDBG funds. This year there were two agencies who received partial funding from CDBG and from either City of Urbana General Funds or Cunningham Township funds. They are Community Elements, specifically Roundhouse Youth Shelter and Courage Connection (formerly The Center for Women in Transition) Domestic Violence Services. The second page of the memo shows the priorities that were selected at the March meeting of the Community Development Commission for the CDBG funds and the two agencies selected fulfill one or more of the priorities. Community Elements meets the priority of Seniors/Youth, specifically Youth and Homelessness. Courage Connection Domestic Violence Services also meets the priority of Homelessness and Special (Needs) Population.

Ms. Mierkowski then asked if there were any questions or comments. Chairperson Cobb commented that the targets were being met and the amount of CDBG funding being spent is \$5,000. Ms. Mierkowski agreed, stating that \$1,000 in CDBG funds was allocated to Community Elements, and \$4,000 to Courage Connection out of the \$5,000 allocated. Page two of the memo also shows the total allocation that each agency has received.

Ms. Mierkowski then introduced Ms. Sheila Ferguson, CEO, Community Elements, who was there to provide information, as well as give updates and statistics for her agency. Ms. Ferguson stated that she wanted to take the opportunity to give a brief update of the Roundhouse program for FY 2014, as well as a history of the program. Community Elements has been operating Roundhouse since 2003, when CHASI (Children's Home and Aid Society) moved out of the Champaign area. Community Elements was pleased that they could take over the program and working with the Continuum of Care and all the housing providers in town, the program fills a niche in the community.

In 2013, Community Elements served 49 unduplicated children under the age of 18 in the Roundhouse Shelter. Average length of stay was around 5-7 days, but the older children (18-23 years of age), due to DCFS involvement and the regulations around homeless youth and being wards of the state, Roundhouse is able to serve them longer. For the older transitioning youth and young adults, their average length of stay is 1-2 months, which allows for school completion and to make sure their support plan is in place for self-sufficiency. Through funds received, they are allowed to provide rental vouchers in the community, which is monitored. They also provide services for self-sufficiency and financial literacy, etc., to make it possible for the youth and young adults to not see homelessness. Ms. Ferguson thanked the Commission, stating she was grateful for the funding they have received.

Chairperson Cobb asked how the amount of funding satisfies their needs and Ms. Ferguson stated that the amount received this year was a little bit above last year's funding, by about \$1000. With the State funding cuts, they are fortunate to receive the increase in funds. Funding received from local entities, such as the City of Urbana, provides the match needed for other grants at the Federal level. The grant operations are primarily funded through Federal basic center or runaway and homeless youth dollars. By having the local dollars demonstrates to the Federal government that there is local support and they can meet the match as these grants are highly competitive.

Commissioner Searing asked if the CDBG dollars could be used as local support for match. Ms. Ferguson stated that they have a lot of match dollars and that one of the things to gain points is by demonstrating local support, via letters of support or through local funds. For Roundhouse, they are primarily contributions toward the program that are used for Federal match. If they are pass-through funds, Community Elements does make a distinction and is grateful that the amount meets or exceeds the match amount required.

Commissioner Moreland asked if this allocation justifies the agency, as well as the City of Urbana, to the Federal government, as far as meeting the needs of the community. Ms. Ferguson agreed and stated that for example, in the Consolidated Plan, the identification of the problems in Champaign help drive the services. Their (Community Elements) mission is to meet the needs in the community, so if the Commission or City Council views a need that is unmet, they will come together around that issue to see if there is potential to increase funding, or start/stop a program that is working or not working, in order to meet that need.

Chairperson Cobb thanked Ms. Ferguson for coming and asked a question with regard to the fiscal impact, that the memo states that there is no fiscal impact to the City, but was wondering what impact there would be to the CDBG budget and objectives, as far as programs. Ms. Mierkowski stated that it helps fulfill the programs. All program and activities are listed in the Annual Action Plan, which includes the budget for all activities and programs, so the \$5,000 for social service funding was already allocated from the budget. The funding amount does not detract from any other program or activity listed in the Annual Action Plan. Chairperson Cobb then explained the three options with regard to the proposed Resolution. Commissioner Searing made a motion to forward the resolution to Council with a recommendation for approval; Commissioner Moreland seconded the motion. Commissioner Diana made a comment for clarification that the amount of \$5,000 is the amount that was tagged for this purpose and Ms. Mierkowski confirmed that this funding amount was to be used toward social service/public service funding as indicated in the Annual Action Plan; the motion carried.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chairperson Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm.

Recorded by Kelly H. Mierkowski, Manager

UNAPPROVED